1Rhodora

JOURNAL OF

THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Vol. 28.

December, 1926.

No. 336.

TECHNICAL NAME OF SUGAR MAPLE.

KENNETH K. MACKENZIE.

I am sorry that in my article on the name in use for the American Sugar Maple, I did not give information enough to enable Mr. Sudworth to understand the question. If reference is made to the preface of Marshall Arbustum Americanum (VII-VIII), the following will be found:

"The author . . . has been induced to draw up this Alphabetical Catalogue of the Forest Trees and Shrubs, natives of the American United States, as mentioned by the best authors, or since discovered by ingenious travellers. In this catalogue are contained their Linnaean Generic and trivial names (or new formed ones where these have been wanting)."

Linnaeus had four "American United States" species of the genus Acer, viz: rubrum, saccharinum, pennsylvanicum and Negundo. Marshall gives all of these with the exception of any spelled "saccharinum." Instead of this appears the name "saccharum," which is merely a misprint for the Linnaean name, occasioned by leaving out the syllable "in." There was not the slightest intention on the part of Marshall to publish this as a new species, or we should have found him using both the names "saccharinum" and "saccharum" because he was accounting for all "American United States" species of Acer. The French translator and reviser of the work caught and quite properly corrected this typographical error, but he continued the other error made by Marshall and numerous other authors in identifying the Linnaean Acer saccharinum with our hard maple instead of with our soft maple.

A very similar tangle had previously been created by Philip Miller (Gard. Dict. Abr. (6th Ed.) 1771 Acer No. 6) where he used the name

Acer sacchatum, giving the Linnaean Latin descriptive phrase for Acer saccharinum, and an account of his own of the American Sugar Maple.

In the 1768 edition (8th) of his Gardener's Dictionary he had used the name Acer saccharinum in very much the same way. There is nothing known to me to show whether the change to sacchatum was an intentional correction in orthography or a mere misspelling.

Anyone using the name appearing in Marshall's work would have hard work to avoid using the prior name appearing in Miller's work. Of course such typographical errors or changes in spelling do not constitute publication of species, and they should be treated as corrections or disregarded entirely.

I am sure that Mr. Sudworth does not believe that a misspelled misidentification amounts to the publication of a new species.

Mr. Sudworth's inference that I would use the name Acer saccharinum L. for the sugar maple is quite without justification in anything I wrote. I really wonder how he ever came to have had such a dream. There must have been a hot, sleepy day in Washington.

MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

TWO SUMMERS OF BOTANIZING IN NEWFOUNDLAND M. L. FERNALD.

(Continued from p. 225.)

Veronica alpina L., var. unalascensis C. & S. Wet quartzite rocks and gravel along brook, Southwest Gulch, Highlands of St. John, Fernald, Wiegand, Long, Gilbert & Hotchkiss, no. 28,965, new to Newfoundland. See p. 124.

V. Humifusa Dickson. Wet limestone barrens, slopes and cliffs, general on the West Coast.

EUPHRASIA. The collections of the past two seasons render a complete revision of the American species necessary. This cannot now be presented.

Bartsia alpina L. Damp turf or peaty limestone barrens or talus from Pistolet Bay westward to Half-way Brook; new to Newfoundland. See pp. 105, 106

Pedicularis flammea L. Wet hollows in gravelly limestone barrens one mile back of Savage Cove, Fernald & Long, no. 29,034; gravelly and peaty limestone barrens back of Big Brook, Fernald & Long, no. 29,035; limestone talus near Half-way Brook, Pease, Gris-